IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

CHARLES RAY ANDREWS, JR,	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	3:15-CV-0109-L-BK
	§	
STATE OF TEXAS,	§	
Defendant.	§	

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

On January 14, 2015, Plaintiff filed a *pro se* complaint against Defendant the State of Texas along with a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, which were automatically referred to the United States Magistrate Judge. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and *Special Order 3*. The Court granted the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, but did not issue process pending preliminary screening. For the reasons that follow, this case should be summarily dismissed.

I. BACKGROUND

The complaint reads in its entirety as follows:

Overtaxing me.

Overcharging me of [sic] good & services causing me to become homeless. NO HA HA

[Doc. 3 at 1].

II. ANALYSIS

Because Plaintiff is proceeding *in forma pauperis*, the complaint is subject to screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). That statute provides for *sua sponte* dismissal of a complaint if the Court finds that it (1) is frivolous or malicious, (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or (3) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. A complaint is frivolous when it "lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact." *Neitzke v*.

Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). A court may dismiss a complaint as frivolous when it is based on an indisputable meritless legal theory or when the factual contentions are "clearly 'baseless.'" *Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 32 (1992). The latter category encompasses allegations that describe "fanciful, fantastic, and delusional" scenarios, or that "rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly incredible." *Id.* at 33.

The Court liberally construes Plaintiff's filings with all possible deference due a *pro se* litigant. *See <u>Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972)</u> (allegations of a pro se complaint are held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers). Even under this most liberal construction, however, Plaintiff's claims/assertions are legally and factually frivolous. Plaintiff merely alleges that he was overtaxed and overcharged for goods and services. Because Plaintiff's contentions are clearly baseless, the complaint should be dismissed with prejudice as frivolous.*

III. LEAVE TO AMEND

Ordinarily, a *pro se p*laintiff should be granted leave to amend his complaint prior to dismissal. *See Brewster v. Dretke*, 587 F.3d 764, 767–68 (5th Cir. 2009) (while generally "a *pro se* litigant should be offered an opportunity to amend his complaint before it is dismissed, . . . [g]ranting leave to amend is not required . . . if the plaintiff has already pleaded his 'best case.'"). Here, Plaintiff's claims are fatally infirm. Thus, the Court concludes that granting leave to amend would be futile and cause needless delay.

IV. SANCTION WARNING

Plaintiff is on a filing spree. Since January 12, 2015, he has filed ten actions, including this one, which for the most part lack any legal or factual basis. In November 2014, he filed three additional actions, which also raised claims presenting no legal or factual basis. Given his recent filing history and the frivolousness of the claims asserted in this case, Plaintiff should be

warned that if he persists in filing frivolous or baseless cases, the Court may impose monetary sanctions and/or bar him from bringing any further action. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b)(2) and (c)(1) (providing for sanctions against *pro se* litigants or attorneys). Sanctions may be appropriate when a *pro se* litigant has a history of submitting multiple frivolous claims.

Mendoza v. Lynaugh, 989 F.2d 191, 195-97 (5th Cir. 1993); see also Whitehead v. Food Max of Miss., Inc., 332 F.3d 796, 802-03 (5th Cir. 2003) (a violation of any provision of Rule 11(b) justifies sanctions). Pro se litigants have "no license to harass others, clog the judicial machinery with meritless litigation, and abuse already overloaded court dockets." Farguson v. MBank Houston, N.A., 808 F.2d 358, 359 (5th Cir.1986). Moreover, litigants who abuse the judicial process are "not entitled to sue and appeal without paying the normal filing fees -- indeed, are not entitled to sue and appeal, period." Free v. United States, 879 F.2d 1535, 1536 (7th Cir. 1989).

V. RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that this action be summarily **DISMISSED** with prejudice as frivolous. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

SIGNED January 15, 2015.

RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).

RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE